

Governor's Proposed FY23 Budget Adjustments
Appropriations Hearing
HB 5037 AAC the State Budget for the Biennium Ending June 30th, 2023
Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services
Thursday, February 24th, 2022
Anna Colangelo

Good afternoon Senator Osten, Representative Walker, Senator Hartley, Representative Dathan, Representative Nolan, Senator Miner, Representative France, and distinguished members of the Appropriations Committee.

My name is Anna Colangelo and I am a registered voter in the city of Bridgeport. I came to Bridge House 23 years ago. At the time, I was going through both inpatient and outpatient treatments. Someone referred me to Bridge House which is a psychosocial program.

When I started at Bridge House, I was depressed and had no structure in my life. Through working with the Employment Unit at Bridge House I was able to secure a job at St. Vincent's Hospital which I have been able to maintain over the past 18 years.

Bridge House gave me stability. When I am there, the work ordered day gives me meaningful work. I enjoy performing tasks like typing, photocopying, and doing a reach out to our other members. I have made friends and became very close with another member who has been my best friend for the last 14 years.

I also get the benefits of our food bank and hot meals served each day. One year in the not too distant past, I was chosen as a member to represent Bridge House at the Clubhouse International World Conference in Norway.

Bridge House has made a big difference in my life. That is why I am asking you to increase the current funding for mental health services as it has a big impact on my life and those of countless others. Thank you.